In the Claims

Claims are amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A media proxy arranged to receive a first message comprising media packets from a first media gateway located near a first end of a path of a communications session for forwarding to a second media gateway located near a second end of the communications session path, ~~and before receiving a corresponding message from a far end,~~ the media proxy ~~is~~ being arranged to detect a blocking situation where another ~~device~~ media proxy in the communications session path is awaiting receipt of the first message in order to perform address discovery to determine an address of the first media gateway ~~before forwarding the corresponding~~ to enable it to forward to said first media gateway a second message comprising media packets from the second media gateway, said first media gateway normally requiring receipt of the second message in order to perform address discovery to determine an address of the second media gateway to enable it to forward to said second media gateway said first message, the media proxy being arranged to detect said blocking situation by sending a probe message along said communications session path towards the second media gateway end of the path and receiving a probe message acknowledge message from said another media proxy thereby enabling the media proxy to deduce that the another media proxy is in the communications session path causing the blocking situation, said media proxy being arranged to forward the first message to the second media proxy in response to receiving said probe message acknowledge message thereby resolving the blocking situation.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The media proxy of claim ~~2~~ 1, arranged to send the probe message ~~towards a predetermined port~~ from a port of said media proxy using an IP address indicated by a call server.

4. (currently amended) The media proxy of claim 3, arranged to listen on a predetermined port for probe messages from other ~~entities~~ media proxies.

5. (currently amended) The media proxy of claim ~~2~~ 1, arranged to wait a predetermined time for the ~~corresponding~~ second message before sending the probe message.

6. (currently amended) The media proxy of claim ~~2~~ 1, arranged to set up a communication session using a multimedia control protocol.

7. (currently amended) The media proxy of claim 3 arranged to listen for a probe acknowledge message from another media proxy on the same port used for sending the probe message.

8. (original) The media proxy of claim 1, the communication session being coupled through a NAT.

9. (original) The media proxy of claim 8, the communication session being coupled to a VPN.

10. (currently amended) The media proxy of claim 1, being arranged to send the first message ~~onwards~~ to the second media gateway before receiving the ~~corresponding~~ second message from the second ~~end~~ media gateway, if the probe message is acknowledged.

11. (currently amended) The media proxy of claim 1, arranged to receive a probe request from a call server during call set up.

12. (currently amended) A media proxy arranged to receive a first message comprising media packets from a first media gateway located near a first end of a path of a communications session for forwarding to a second media gateway located

near a second end of the communications session path, and to await a ~~corresponding~~ second message comprising media packets from ~~a far end before forwarding messages between the ends~~ said second media gateway, the media proxy being arranged to send the first message ~~onwards~~ to another media proxy before receiving the ~~corresponding~~ second message from the second ~~end~~ media gateway, if the media proxy is made aware of a blocking situation where the another ~~device~~ media proxy in the communications session path is awaiting receipt of the first message in order to perform address discovery to determine an address of the first media gateway ~~before forwarding the corresponding~~ to enable it to forward to said first media gateway said second message.

13. (currently amended) A call server for use in setting up a communication session through a first media proxy, the call server being arranged to detect a blocking situation, where the first media proxy has received a first message comprising media packets from a first media gateway located near a first end of a path of a communications session for forwarding to a second media gateway located near a second end of the communications session path, and to awaits a ~~corresponding~~ second message comprising media packets from ~~a far end before forwarding messages between the near and far ends~~ said second media gateway, the call server being arranged to cause the first media proxy to send a probe message along the communications session path towards the second media gateway end of the path to determine if there is a second media proxy in the path of the communications session, and if so, to cause the first media proxy to send the first message ~~onwards~~ to the second media proxy before ~~the arrival of the corresponding message from the far end~~ receiving the second message from the second media gateway.

14. (currently amended) The call server of claim 13 being arranged to send an IP address and port for the second media proxy to the first media proxy, to enable the first media proxy to send the first message ~~onwards~~ to the second media proxy.

15. (currently amended) The call server of claim 13, being arranged to send a probe request to the first media proxy in control messaging sent during call set up.

16. (currently amended) A method of setting up a communications session using a media proxy, the method having the steps of receiving a first message comprising media packets from a first media gateway located near a first end of a path of a communications session for forwarding to a second media gateway located near a second end of the communications session path, ~~and before receiving a corresponding message from a far end,~~ detecting a blocking situation where another ~~device~~ media proxy in the communications session path is awaiting receipt of the first message in order to perform address discovery to determine an address of the first media gateway ~~before forwarding the corresponding~~ to enable it to forward to said first media gateway a second message comprising media packets from the second media gateway, said first media gateway normally requiring receipt of the second message in order to perform address discovery to determine an address of the second media gateway to enable it to forward to said second media gateway said first message, the method comprising detecting said blocking situation by sending a probe message along said communications session path towards the second media gateway end of the path and receiving a probe message acknowledge message from said another media proxy thereby enabling the media proxy to deduce that the another media proxy is in the communications session path causing the blocking situation, forwarding the first message to the another media proxy in response to receiving said probe message acknowledge message at the media proxy thereby resolving the blocking situation.

17. (cancelled).

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 16, having the step of sending the probe message ~~towards a predetermined port~~ from a port of said media proxy using an IP address indicated by a call server.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 16, having the step of listening on a predetermined port for probe messages from other ~~entities~~ media proxies.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, having the step of listening for a probe acknowledge message from another media proxy on the same port used for sending the probe message.

21. (original) The method of claim 16, the communication session being coupled through a NAT.

22. (cancelled).

23. (currently amended) A method of operating a call server and a first media proxy to set up a communication session, and to detect a blocking situation, where the first media proxy has received a first message comprising media packets from a first media gateway located near a first end of a path of a communications session for forwarding to a second media gateway located near a second end of the communications session path, and awaits a ~~corresponding~~ second message comprising media packets from ~~a far end before forwarding messages between the near and far ends~~ said second media gateway, the method having the steps of using the call server to determine if there is a second media proxy in the path of the communications session by causing the first media proxy to send a probe message along the communications session path towards the second media gateway end of the path, and if so, to use the media proxy to send the first message ~~enwards~~ to the second media proxy before ~~the arrival of the corresponding message from the far end~~ receiving the second message from the second media gateway.

24. (cancelled)

25. (new) A computer readable medium embodying a computer program comprising program code executable by a processor of a computing device, said program code comprising:

code for receiving a first message comprising media packets from a first media gateway located near a first end of a path of a communications session for forwarding to a second media gateway located near a second end of the communications session path, code for detecting a blocking situation where another media proxy in the communications session path is awaiting receipt of the first message in order to perform address discovery to determine an address of the first media gateway to enable it to forward to said first media gateway a second message comprising media packets from the second media gateway, said first media gateway normally requiring receipt of the second message in order to perform address discovery to determine an address of the second media gateway to enable it to forward to said second media gateway said first message, code for detecting said blocking situation by sending a probe message along said communications session path towards the second media gateway end of the path and receiving a probe message acknowledge message from said another media proxy thereby enabling the media proxy to deduce that the another media proxy is in the communications session path causing the blocking situation, and code for forwarding the first message to the another media proxy in response to receiving said probe message acknowledge message at the media proxy thereby resolving the blocking situation.

26. (new) A computer readable medium embodying a computer program comprising program code executable by a processor of a computing device, said program code comprising:

code for operating a call server and a first media proxy to set up a communication session, and to detect a blocking situation, where the first media proxy has received a first message comprising media packets from a first media gateway located near a first end of a path of a communications session for forwarding to a second media gateway located near a second end of the communications session path, and awaits a second message comprising media

packets from said second media gateway, the program code having code for using the call server to determine if there is a second media proxy in the path of the communications session by causing the first media proxy to send a probe message along the communications session path towards the second media gateway end of the path, and if so, to use the first media proxy to send the first message to the second media proxy before receiving the second message from the second media gateway.